

SECRET

FROM:

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

Accession No. *CP-88* *JUL 11 1946*

Date Rec'd SA .....

To	Room No.	Date		Officer's Initials	Comments
		Rec'd	Exp'd.		
1. <i>F.V.</i>	<i>1116</i>	<i>11/7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>ONUSAYN, HAJJ AMIN</i>
2. <i>F.V.</i>				<i>A</i>	
3. <i>Revised</i>		<i>12/7</i>	<i>12/7</i>	<i>ARK</i>	<i>No Dis - outdater</i>
4. <i>F.V.</i>	<i>1138</i>				
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 2B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

ABSTRACT ☒ INDEX ☐  
DATE *JAN 7* 1953

Each comment should be numbered to correspond with number in To column.  
A line should be drawn across sheet under each comment.  
Officer Designations should be used in To column.  
Each Officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing.  
Action desired or action taken should be indicated in Comments column.  
Routing sheet should always be returned to Registry.  
For Officer Designations see separate sheet.

SECRET

OSR Form 1533

Dissem. No.:

OP-88

Date transmitted to R&A:

12 July

Date returned: July 17, 1946

IN ALL CASES FURTHER COMMENT IS MOST HELPFUL

Check appropriate lines below	Whole	Page	Paragraphs
1. Information correct			
2. Believed correct			1, 2, 3, 8
3. Incorrect (comment below)			5, 6, 7
4. Doubtful			4

No Comment Possible; Check Reason	Whole	Page	Paragraphs
A. Subject not studied			
B. Country not studied			
C. Information covered too recent			
D. No independent source of information			

COMMENT BY R & A:

The information in this report is outdated and in parts incorrect. By now it is clearly established that the Mufti did not land in Damascus and did not attend the Bludan Conference.

LK

(39346)

Signature

*Robertson*

Report No. 469.

SECRET.

FLIGHT OF HAJJ AMIN FROM FRANCE TO SYRIA.

1. Editor's note: Any exact information is unobtainable and accounts are so conflicting that this report is sent with reservations. At best it will only perhaps portray the Arab worship of Hajj Amin, and their delight at having him back in Arab countries.

2. Arabs communicate with Hajj Amin. Reference a Washington inquiry (LD 9 para. 2) "What evidence is there of Arab communications with the Mufti? What channels are used? etc." inquiries in Lebanon after interviewing a close relation of Hajj Amin and a Christian Lebanese admirer, etc., are as follows:

Communications were freely exchanged. One report was that there was no difficulty in sending letters to the Mufti in France, and that the "authorities" assisted (not mentioning if the authorities were Lebanese or French), while another stated that the Lebanese and Syrian Legations or Consulates in France acted as intermediaries. Letters from Palestine were sent by courier to Syria for mailing.

3. Escape of Hajj Amin. About six weeks ago the rumour was current in Palestine that the Grand Mufti would soon return to Arab countries. Then he arrived in the Lebanon, after the middle of last week, it was already rumoured that Hajj Amin would be at the Bludan Conference. Again it was denied that he was already there.

As he returned to Jerusalem Sunday afternoon, he saw preparations for decorating the city. Arab flags, greenery, portraits of Hajj Amin and the King of Arabia, and festoons across the road, were everywhere being arranged. It was then rumoured that the escape had been to Syria - this information emanating from the Egyptian radio, while other news gave it that Hajj Amin had left France "for an unknown destination". All the decorations and rejoicing was so spontaneous, with no definite news available. Since then there has been a flood of unconfirmed rumours.

4. This evening I arrived with the following information obtained from a fellow-revolutionary petty leader in the Arab revolution, now holding a lesser post in the Moslem Religious Courts. Information thus passed on had arrived from Damascus through a Palestinian Arab who happened to be there at the moment and had a valid visa and could rush to Palestine with the news.

5. Informant stated that the Syrian Legation in France had provided Hajj Amin with a passport in the name of Muhammad Asad; that the Mufti had changed the trimming of his beard and moustache, had worn a Damascus type "Agabany" turban, and had flown to Mezzi Aerodrome outside Damascus, only stopping at the Almaza (M) Aerodrom in Egypt. Egyptian, not British, passport control had handled the case. Within two hours of his arrival in Damascus Hajj Amin was called to Bludan.

(X)

- 2 -  
al-Musayyir

6. The planning of the flight of the Grand Mufti was known by Moussa al Amini, Jamal Musseini, and the leader of the Moslem Brotherhood in Egypt, some six weeks ago. At a meeting of the Moslem Brotherhood (now housed in a lower flat and extensive garden which, till recently, was the home of Hajj Musseini, who has been sent to London and Washington by the Arab Office, see report No. 529 of February 4th) which took place some ten days ago, a speaker referring to Hajj Amin said that they would "snatch" him from France and safeguard his life in Syria.

7. After this interview ... went to a leading Moslem lady's home to give her, as a pretext, the salams of a grandchild in the Lebanon, whom he saw there. The lady, who is a rabid admirer of Hajj Amin, spit out venom at President Truman. She stated that while she knew all the details of the escape of Hajj Amin, she could not disclose them. She said he had arrived in Syria on Saturday, and immediately went to Bludan; that Hajj Amin's office of Grand Mufti of Jerusalem was unimportant - he was not only the champion of Arab Palestine but of all the Arab nations as a whole, and was so looked up to by them. She further stated that while in France he championed Lebanon and Syria's demands for independence, and the complete withdrawal of foreign troops.

8. Referring to Palestine this lady said it was untrue that the Palestine Arabs were anti-British. She liked the British and wished them to remain, as well as the Jews already established in the country, but that the United States had no business to interfere with Palestine politics, and that only over the dead bodies of the Arabs could the Jews make Palestine a Jewish State. (The name of the lady will be sent by another pouch).

9. This Arab lady repeatedly stated that Hajj Amin's escape had been in an American plane.

Jerusalem,

12th June, 1946, 11 p.m.

Later.

The Mufti left France on Friday, his escape was known at the Jewish Agency on Saturday afternoon, and that his destination was Damascus on Monday at 9am.

Source 1

THE JERUSALEM POST  
12th June 1946  
A friend of mine recently arrived in Palestine, and on the first day of his stay, he noticed a photograph on the wall of his room, depicting the face of Hajj Amin. He asked where it was, and the following conversation ensued:  
"Picture? Arab big man. Very big man."  
"Oh, yes? What sort of big man?"  
"Very important man."  
"I understand. And why the photograph?"  
"He's coming back to us."  
"And what was his job?"  
"He was big man, very important Arab man."  
"But didn't I hear that he helped the Germans?"  
"Yes, that's right. And now he's going to help the Arabs."